

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - May 27, 2008

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Armando Ramirez pled guilty today in federal court in San Diego to conspiring to distribute at least 500 grams of methamphetamine. Ramirez also agreed to forfeit his interest in a house in Chula Vista, five vehicles, over \$38,000 in U.S. currency, and two firearms. Ramirez, who faces at least 10 years in prison and up to life, entered his plea before United States Magistrate Judge William McCurine, Jr., subject to final acceptance by United States District Court Judge Marilyn L. Huff at the time of sentencing.

According to court documents, until March 2006, Ramirez, Jorge Arreola-Gomez, Benedicta Arreola, and at least 16 others distributed large amounts of methamphetamine in southern San Diego County. Agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration and local police officers seized multiple methamphetamine shipments from the group, including 75 pounds of methamphetamine in Chula Vista, California on September 15, 2005; 15.8 pounds of methamphetamine at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry (POE) on December 10, 2005; 5.98 pounds of methamphetamine at the Otay Mesa POE on January 4, 2006; 7.8 pounds of

methamphetamine at the Otay Mesa POE on February 12, 2006; 14.3 pounds of methamphetamine at the San Ysidro POE on February 16, 2006; and 20 pounds of methamphetamine on March 6, 2006 in Chula Vista. In March 2006, agents arrested Ramirez and several co-conspirators.

Ramirez is the thirteenth defendant to plead guilty to drug trafficking, firearms, or money laundering charges arising from the investigation. Sentencing is scheduled for September 2, 2008, 9:00 a.m., before United States District Judge Marilyn L. Huff.

DEFENDANT

Case Number: 06cr0590-H

Armando Ramirez

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Count 1 - Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841, 846 –
Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine

Penalties: At least 10 years, and up to 40 years, in prison
 \$4 million fine
 At least five years of supervised release

INVESTIGATING AGENCIES

Drug Enforcement Administration
National City Police Department